



National Weather Service

## Climate Prediction Center



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Official 90-day Outlooks  
are issued once each  
month near mid-month  
at 8:30am Eastern Time.  
Please consult the  
schedule of 30 & 90-day  
outlooks for exact  
release dates.

## Text Discussions

90day Prognostic  
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0.5mn AMJ 2006  
1.5mn MJJ 2006  
2.5mn JJA 2006  
3.5mn JAS 2006  
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5.5mn SON 2006  
6.5mn OND 2006  
7.5mn NDJ 2006  
8.5mn DJF 2006  
9.5mn JFM 2007  
10.5mn FMA 2007  
11.5mn MAM 2007  
12.5mn AMJ 2007  
0.5mn Apr 2006

Tools Used (see  
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PROGNOSTIC DISCUSSION FOR LONG-LEAD SEASONAL OUTLOOKS  
NWS CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER CAMP SPRINGS MD  
830 AM EST THU MAR 16 2006

SUMMARY OF THE OUTLOOK FOR NON-TECHNICAL USERS

THE MAIN FACTORS WHICH USUALLY INFLUENCE SEASONAL CLIMATE INCLUDE

- 1) [EL NINO](#) AND [LA NINA](#) - WHICH TOGETHER MAKE UP EL NINO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION OR [ENSO](#) -
- 2) [TRENDS](#) - THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MOST RECENT 10-YEAR MEAN OF TEMPERATURE OR 15-YEAR MEAN OF PRECIPITATION FOR A GIVEN LOCATION AND TIME OF YEAR AND THE 30-YEAR [CLIMATOLOGY](#) PERIOD (CURRENTLY 1971-2000) -
- 3) TROPICAL 30-60-DAY OSCILLATION- WHICH MAY AFFECT CLIMATE VARIABILITY WITHIN A SEASON -
- 4) THE [NORTH ATLANTIC OSCILLATION](#) - OR [NAO](#) - AND
- 5) PERSISTENTLY DRY OR WET SOILS IN THE SUMMER AND SNOW AND ICE COVER [ANOMALIES](#) IN THE WINTER.

WEAK [LA NINA](#) CONDITIONS HAVE DEVELOPED DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS... AS [SST ANOMALIES](#) IN THE CENTRAL EQUATORIAL PACIFIC BECAME INCREASINGLY NEGATIVE THROUGH JANUARY BUT HAVE NOW BOTTOMED OUT. ALTHOUGH [LA NINA](#) CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT THREE TO SIX MONTHS ITS EFFECT ON THE CLIMATE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGION FOR THE NEXT SEASON OR TWO MAY BE WEAK.

THE TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK FOR APRIL-MAY-JUNE (AMJ) 2006 CALLS FOR WARMER-THAN-NORMAL CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTHERN U.S. FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE GULF COAST STATES. TEMPERATURES ARE EXPECTED TO BE BELOW AVERAGE FROM WASHINGTON STATE EASTWARD AS FAR AS NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA. ELSEWHERE THERE ARE [EQUAL CHANCES](#) OF WARMER- THAN... COOLER-THAN OR NEAR-NORMAL TEMPERATURES DURING AMJ. ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES ARE ANTICIPATED FOR WESTERN ALASKA AND THE NORTHWESTERN ISLANDS OF HAWAII.

THE PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK FOR AMJ CALLS FOR DRIER THAN NORMAL CONDITIONS OVER MOST OF THE SOUTHEAST AND IN THE WESTERN PORTIONS OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN PLAINS. THIS IS PRESENT TO SOME DEGREE AMONG MOST SEASONAL FORECAST TOOLS... PARTICULARLY THE [DYNAMICAL MODELS](#). ABOVE MEDIAN PRECIPITATION IS EXPECTED IN AMJ IN THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES. ELSEWHERE THERE ARE [EQUAL CHANCES](#) OF PRECIPITATION BEING WETTER-THAN... DRIER-THAN... OR NEAR-MEDIAN DURING AMJ. ABOVE-MEDIAN PRECIPITATION IS ANTICIPATED OVER ALL ISLANDS IN HAWAII... WHILE THERE ARE NO CLEAR INDICATIONS FOR ALASKA... WHICH IS LEFT WITH [EQUAL CHANCES](#).

BASIS AND SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT LONG-LEAD OUTLOOK

NOTE: FOR GRAPHICAL DISPLAYS OF THE FORECAST TOOLS DISCUSSED BELOW SEE:  
[HTTP://WWW.CPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/PRODUCTS/PREDICTIONS/90DAY/TOOLS/BRIEFING](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/tools/briefing)

## CURRENT ATMOSPHERIC AND OCEANIC CONDITIONS

THE OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC INDICATORS IN THE TROPICAL PACIFIC REMAIN CONSISTENT WITH WEAK [LA NINA](#) CONDITIONS. SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE DURING FEBRUARY WERE BELOW NORMAL BETWEEN 165E AND 115W. AT DEPTH OCEAN TEMPERATURES ARE BELOW NORMAL ACROSS THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EQUATORIAL PACIFIC. THE WEST PACIFIC REMAINS WARM BOTH AT THE SURFACE AND AT DEPTH.

THE PATTERN OF [OLR](#) ACROSS THE TROPICAL PACIFIC HAS BEEN CONSISTENT WITH [LA NINA](#)

CONDITIONS SINCE NOVEMBER...WITH ENHANCED [CONVECTION](#) NEAR INDONESIA AND SUPPRESSED [CONVECTION](#) NEAR THE DATA LINE. LOW LEVEL EASTERLIES HAVE BEEN STRONG ACROSS THE EQUATORIAL PACIFIC.

[MJO](#) ACTIVITY IS CURRENTLY EXCEEDINGLY WEAK. [SSTS](#) ARE ABOVE NORMAL IN MUCH OF THE EXTRATROPICAL NORTH ATLANTIC... ALTHOUGH [SSTS](#) SURROUNDING FLORIDA AND ALONG THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST ARE WELL BELOW NORMAL.

### PROGNOSTIC DISCUSSION OF [SST](#) FORECASTS

THE CONSENSUS OF SEVERAL MODELS USED AT [CPC](#) SUGGEST THAT [SST ANOMALIES](#) IN THE NINO 3.4 REGION (BETWEEN 5N AND 5S AND 170W TO 120W) HAVE PASSED THEIR MINIMUM VALUES. THE CFS AND MRK METHODS MAINTAIN AN [ANOMALY](#) BETWEEN -1.0 AND -0.5 THROUGH SUMMER 2006....SUGGESTING THE [LA NINA](#) COULD PERSIST. HOWEVER [CA](#) TURNS POSITIVE AT AROUND MAY AND [CCA](#) IS VERY CLOSE TO ZERO FOR ALL OF 2006. THE CONSOLIDATION METHOD THUS INDICATES NINO3.4 TO MAINTAIN A SMALL NEGATIVE [ANOMALY](#) AND APPROACH ZERO [ANOMALY](#) BY LATE SUMMER.

### PROGNOSTIC TOOLS USED FOR U.S. TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OUTLOOKS

THE OUTLOOK FOR AMJ 2006 THROUGH AMJ 2007 IS BASED ON THE CLIMATE MODELS... THE MULTI-MODEL ENSEMBLE FROM [IRI](#)... THE CFS... AND [CDC](#) TOOLS BASED ON CLIMATE MODELS... AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS STATISTICAL TOOLS... INCLUDING [CCA](#)... ECCA... [SMLR](#)... [OCN](#). THE AMJ-MJJ-JJA FORECASTS ARE INFLUENCED BY THE CONSTRUCTED ANALOGUE BASED ON SOIL MOISTURE ([CAS](#)). FORECASTS FROM AMJ THROUGH JAS 2006 REFLECT THE CONSOLIDATED TEMPERATURE PRODUCT... WHICH PRODUCES A SKILL WEIGHTED MIX OF CFS... [CCA](#)... [SMLR](#)... AND [OCN](#). THE OUTLOOKS FOR ASO 2006 THROUGH AMJ 2007 ARE BASED ON A CONSOLIDATION OF [CCA](#)... [SMLR](#)... AND [OCN](#)... ALTHOUGH [OCN](#) IS THE PRIMARY INFLUENCE BEYOND JAS.

### PROGNOSTIC DISCUSSION OF OUTLOOKS - AMJ 2006 TO AMJ 2007

#### TEMPERATURE:

TEMPERATURE PROBABILITIES FOR AMJ 2006 HAVE BEEN REVISED FROM THE CORRESPONDING OUTLOOK ISSUED LAST MONTH... WITH THE OUTLOOK NOW FAVORING A MUCH LARGER AREA OF ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES WITH HIGHER PROBABILITIES OVER MUCH OF THE SOUTH MAINLY BECAUSE OF DRY CONDITIONS AND SUPPORT FROM MANY TOOLS. WE EXTENDED THE AREA OF BELOW AVERAGE TEMPERATURES FROM THE DAKOTAS INTO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST... DUE TO GOOD AGREEMENT AMONG MOST OF THE [DYNAMICAL MODELS](#). THE OUTLOOK FOR FLORIDA WAS ALSO REVISED IN THAT PROBABILITIES FOR ABOVE WERE LOWERED DUE TO THE OBSERVED BELOW NORMAL [SSTS](#) CURRENTLY SURROUNDING THE STATE. THE OUTLOOKS FOR MJJ AND JJA 2006 WERE SLIGHTLY REVISED BY INCREASING THE AREA OF ABOVE NORMAL FROM THE SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH-CENTRAL INTO THE SOUTHEAST TO REFLECT THE LIKELIHOOD OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUING. OUTLOOKS FOR THE SEASONS FROM SON 2006 THROUGH AMJ 2007 MAINLY REFLECT THE

INFLUENCE OF [TRENDS](#). SOME MAPS HAVE 80-90% COVERAGE FOR ABOVE NORMAL DUE TO RECENTS UPWARDS [TRENDS](#) WHICH HAVE BEEN LARGE ESPECIALLY IN WINTER.

PRECIPITATION:

THERE IS WIDESPREAD CONSENSUS AMONG [DYNAMICAL MODELS](#) FOR BELOW MEDIAN PRECIPITATION OVER LARGE PARTS OF THE SOUTHERN THIRD OF THE [CONUS](#) FOR AMJ 2006. [CCA](#)... ECCA AND [SMLR](#) FORECASTS ALSO SUPPORT THE FORECAST FOR BELOW MEDIAN PRECIPITATION OVER PORTIONS OF THE SOUTHERN [CONUS](#). THE STRONGEST INDICATIONS ARE IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL PLAINS BUT WE INCLUDED MUCH OF THE SOUTHEAST DUE TO MULTIPLE WEAK INDICATIONS. ABOVE MEDIAN PRECIPITATION IS FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES AREA WEST INTO THE DAKOTAS. [DYNAMICAL MODELS](#) PERSIST THE DRY CONDITIONS IN PARTS OF THE SOUTHERN [CONUS](#) THROUGH SUMMER 2006... AND SHOW WETTER THAN MEDIAN CONDITIONS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION FOR AMJ AND MJJ. INDICATIONS FOR CONTINUED DRYNESS OVER THE GREAT PLAINS FROM [CAS](#) WERE ALSO USED IN THE PRECIPITATION FORECASTS FROM AMJ THROUGH JJA 2006. A SLIGHTLY ENHANCED SUMMER MONSOON IS FORECAST FOR ARIZONA DUE TO HINTS FROM [CAS](#)... SOME OF THE [DYNAMICAL MODELS](#)... AND COMPOSITES OF SUMMERS FOLLOWING PAST SEASONS WITH [LA NINA](#) OR DEFICIENT COLD-SEASON SNOW PACK IN THE GREAT BASIN. OTHERWISE... PRECIPITATION FORECASTS FOR SEASONS BEYOND JJA... WHERE DIFFERENT FROM [EQUAL CHANCES](#)... PRIMARILY REFLECT LONG-TERM [TRENDS](#).

NOTE - AREAS OF UNCERTAINTY THAT FORMERLY WERE LABELED CL (CLIMATOLOGICAL PROBABILITIES) ARE NOW LABELED [EC](#) ([EQUAL CHANCES](#)).

FORECASTER: HUUG VAN DEN DOOL

STARTING WITH THE SEASONAL OUTLOOK RELEASED IN FEBRUARY, 2006, THE GLOSSARY OF TERMS WILL NO LONGER APPEAR WITH THIS MESSAGE. INSTEAD, TERMS THAT ARE IN THE GLOSSARY WILL BE LINKED TO THEIR DEFINITION.

FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE STANDARD FORECAST TOOLS - THEIR SKILL - AND THE FORECAST FORMAT PLEASE SEE OUR WEB PAGE AT [HTTP://WWW.\[CPC\]\(#\).NCEP.NOAA.GOV/PRODUCTS/PREDICTIONS/90DAY/DISC.HTML](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/disc.html) (USE LOWER CASE LETTERS)

INFORMATION ON THE FORMULATION AND SKILL OF THE [CAS](#) FORECASTS MAY BE FOUND AT: [HTTP://WWW.\[CPC\]\(#\).NCEP.NOAA.GOV/SOILMST/FORECASTS.HTML](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/soilmst/forecasts.html) (USE LOWERCASE LETTERS)

NOTES - THESE CLIMATE OUTLOOKS ARE INTENDED FOR USE PRIOR TO THE START OF THEIR VALID PERIOD. WITHIN ANY GIVEN VALID PERIOD OBSERVATIONS AND SHORT AND MEDIUM RANGE FORECASTS SHOULD BE CONSULTED.

THIS SET OF OUTLOOKS WILL BE SUPERSEDED BY THE ISSUANCE OF THE NEW SET NEXT MONTH ON THU APR 20 2006.

1971-2000 BASE PERIOD MEANS WERE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVE WITH THE MAY 17, 2001 FORECAST RELEASE

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